

# Rail Enhancement Fund

## Roanoke Intermodal Facility Site Evaluation and Selection Plan

November 9, 2006

# Background

- ❑ As part of the Heartland Corridor – Virginia Components Rail Enhancement Fund (REF) Grant, NS proposes to construct an intermodal facility in the Roanoke Region
- ❑ DRPT has developed an Intermodal Facility Site Evaluation and Selection Plan to assist in evaluating proposed sites to determine the best location for investment of REF funds

# DRPT Site Solicitation Process

- ❑ October 6, 2006, DRPT notified NS of the general parameters expected of a qualified site for the intermodal facility. These general parameters for the facility are:
  - Must be close to Interstate I-81 with reasonable access and egress
  - Must be located on the Heartland Corridor line between Walton on the west and the Shenandoah line connection on the east
  - Must not create additional grade separations, particularly in congested urban areas
  - Should be a minimum of 65 acres and flat topography
  - Should seek to minimize associated roadway costs that might be engendered or necessitated
  - Should seek to be well-configured into the rail-operating perspective to avoid degrading rail traffic, add to efficiency of intermodal operation, and result in relative facility development or facility delivery costs

# DRPT Solicitation Process (2)

- ❑ October 18, 2006, DRPT solicited proposals from the Grantee and localities that lie along the rail line within the geographic boundaries of the search area
  - To date, only the City of Salem has expressed interest in submitting a site proposal
  - NS has met with DRPT has expressed their intent to further discussions on the Elliston site

# DRPT Site Evaluation

- ❑ As the lead Agency, DRPT will work collectively with state agencies and Norfolk Southern (NS) to evaluate the preferred site of those submitted. This initiative is expected to require a 45 day review period and include:
  - Initial site proposal review by DRPT for fatal flaws based on the criteria as established by DRPT for Rail Enhancement Funding
  - Site proposal review with respective agencies as determined by DRPT under development with the OAG
  - Existing road impact evaluation and road need analysis as conducted by VDOT
  - Site proposal reviews for practical application and interface as provided by NS
  - Site review for ancillary developable land for future distribution center growth opportunities as conducted by VPA

# Public Involvement

- ☐ Public comments on the proposed site will be received during the 45-day evaluation period
- ☐ Public involvement for the site review should follow existing state program requirements
- ☐ Localities should provide opportunities for public comment per local requirements as they consider and recommend the site location
- ☐ Responses to public comments will be issued upon completion of the review period
- ☐ DRPT will consider public comments as part of the decision making process once the DRPT site evaluation process is completed

# Final Site Determination

- ❑ Final site determination by DRPT will include review and consideration of the DRPT's criteria, public comment, and coordination with the operations of NS.



Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

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